



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Immigrant Support Network at the Basilica of St Mary
- Meet Doris LeMieux
- Letter from the President
- Upcoming Events

Vinnie's Voice

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Religious Articles Ministry

Two years ago while officiating at a funeral, Deacon Joe Kenney met a woman who desired a rosary and Joe did not have one to give to her. When he went home, he asked his wife Sue "Do we have any extra rosaries?" She went to a closet and came out with 2 full boxes! Thus, the Religious Articles Ministry (RAM) was born.

When we started, we had local churches collecting items which they sent to us for cleaning and possible repair and distribution. While giving the articles away at church events, we realized there was a great desire for these precious articles of our Catholic faith. We also knew many people had religious articles sitting in boxes in their homes with no idea what

to do with them and the requests for religious articles were growing. We decided to advertise on our website that people could send to SVdP Twin Cities their unwanted/extra religious articles. And people responded. Along with many boxes of items from around Minnesota, we received boxes from Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado and Utah.

Thus far we have sent 1,100 rosaries to Haiti. 350 to Catholic Aid Minnesota and 200 to the Shakopee women's prison along with devotional books. Medals, crosses and other religious jewelry have been given to faith formation classes. At parish festivals and dinners we have set up tables filled with items and met many happy

recipients.

Letters come with many of the donations and one read, "My grandmother died 36 years ago and had so many beautiful religious items we just did not know what to do with them! We were so pleased to find a place to send them."

Whether at a parish festival or community gathering, we would like the opportunity to offer these items FREE to members of your community. We also accept donations of religious articles at these events. If you are interested in preserving these symbols of our faith, please contact St. Vincent de Paul at (612)722-7882 or by email at religiousarticles@svdpmpls.org.

Thank you!

From left to right: Ed Koerner, Archbishop Hebda, Deacon Joe Kenney, founder of the Religious Articles Ministry.



"Make it a practice to judge people and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances"
~St Vincent de Paul



Immigrant Support Network at the Basilica of St Mary



Karenni Family from Myanmar/Burma Arrives

Before he was a saint, Vincent de Paul was a slave — a victim of human trafficking. In 1605, when Vincent was 24, pirates captured the ship he was on and sold him into slavery in North Africa. He promised God that if he escaped, he would spend his life helping others. With the help of a Muslim woman, Vincent did escape. He spent his lifetime fulfilling his promise, serving people in need, including those fleeing hunger, poverty and war.

Today, those same human-made disasters force thousands from their homelands every day. The United Nations estimates 258 million migrants are scattered

around the world—including here in Minnesota. The SVdP Immigrant Support Ministry at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, follows Vincent's example to "serve, accompany, and defend" newcomers from troubled regions.

Since 2015, teams of SVdP volunteers have walked alongside 11 families as they start over again. The families originally came from Myanmar (Burma), Iraq, and Somalia, but many lived in refugee camps before arriving here. Besides big things like housing and education, it's little things that help newcomers feel at home; warm coats for winter, baby clothes for a

newborn, furniture for an empty apartment, and household items such as a used vacuum cleaner. The SVdP ministry provides these things in various ways, including through vouchers to shop at the SVdP Thrift Store.

The work is ongoing. Like Vincent, sometimes we need help, sometimes we give help. Either way, SVdP is a good place to come together for our common good.

For more information visit our website. <https://www.mary.org/news-events/news/refugee-sponsorship#.WrXapljwblU>

Vinnie's Volunteers



Doris hard at work!

One of the very first volunteers at the Minneapolis St. Vincent de Paul store was Doris LeMieux from Holy Name Church in South Minneapolis. Holy Name had just started a SVdP conference which Doris joined when she heard its purpose was to help the poor and needy. She herself came from a poor family at a time when there was no place to go to for help. After visiting people in their homes and discovering some just needed a few pieces of clothing, some household items or even a piece of furniture, members of the conference decided

Minneapolis should have a SVdP store like St. Paul's. Soon afterward the hunt for a building started, the building was purchased and the "fun" began.

When the store first opened, it was just all one big room. There was no plumbing at Doris' workstation where she washed dishes and other house wares. Water was carried over in a dish pan and the dirty water was dumped in a five gallon slop bucket. One day Doris came in to work and yelled, "hallelujah." People came running over to see what the fuss was all about. Doris finally had

hot and cold running water at her workstation.

For the first five years, Doris volunteered twenty hours a week. She added relief cashier to her title for a while when Wayne, the current store manager, held that position.

After thirty years, Doris still volunteers several hours a day once a week. She likes coming to Vinnie's because it's "her thing." She enjoys volunteering and likes to keep active. Besides that, she doesn't have to wash dishes any more.



The Iraqi refugee family arrives at the airport



The Basilica/Lutheran Social Services Welcome Committee greets Iraqi refugees



A Somali family of two arrives: a mother and her baby

OUR GOALS

- Promote greater spiritual growth at every level of the Society
- Enhance the image of the Society to become a more visible sign of Christ
- Encourage greater unity at every level of the Society
- Develop greater solidarity with and care for people who are poor
- Build strengthened relationships with the Church, Vincentian Family, and other organizations which serve people in need

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Help Us Help Others



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We're on the web!
www.svdpmpls.org

Vinnie's Voice

Letter from the President— Thank you!

We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support of St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities. It's because of your generosity that we can be here to help our neighbors in need with food, clothing, and other essential items. We were greatly encouraged by your recent gifts and thank you for being a part of what God is doing through St. Vincent de Paul. Your support truly matters!

Please know that because of you, the impact St. Vincent de Paul

has to reach the community has been greatly strengthened. I know our St. Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers will continue to be good stewards of the resources you entrust to us. As we continue to serve those in need, we hope you'll be reminded of the vital role you play in this ministry.

Blessings,
Pat Kaiser

Upcoming Events

Regional Meeting—June 21-23, Rochester, MN

National Meeting—August 29-September 1, San Diego, CA

Friends of the Poor Walk—September 29, 11 am, 2939 12 Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

St Vincent de Paul Feast Day Celebration—September 29th, Incarnation Church, Mass 5:30 pm, followed by Social, Silent Auction, and Dinner

If you'd like to receive our newsletter electronically, please sign up at www.svdpmpls.org